



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

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FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC

Meeting Minutes

Lansing, Michigan

May 14, 2007

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:06 AM.

Board Members Present: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Tom Shawver, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Geneva Wiskemann, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Absent: None.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Michigan Historical Center Foundation (Foundation) Staff Present: Pat Clark, Director.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; motion passed.

President's Report

President Spaniola read a letter to the Friends from Rory Wendt, Michigan History Day Leadership Team, containing the list of category winners for Best Entry in Michigan History. The names of the student winners were:

- Samantha Reitsma: *Great Log Jam of 1883*
Junior Individual Paper - Ada Christian Middle School
- Robin Baird: *Protecting the Castle*
Senior Individual Paper - Detroit Country Day
- Libby Collins and Charlotte Thill: *The Great Depression in Michigan*
Youth Group Exhibit - Bay County Public School Academy

A motion was made to award Samantha Reitsma and Robin Baird each with \$150.00 and to award Libby Collins and Charlotte Thill each with \$75.00; motion passed.

A brief discussion took place regarding the lack of recognition of the Friends by the Historical Society of Michigan in its May 1, 2007 press release entitled, *Record Crowd at National History Day State Finals*. It was indicated that such a

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shortcoming in the future could jeopardize Friends' funding for subsequent year winners. As Geneva Wiskemann was the Friends' contact to the Historical Society of Michigan, it was requested that she relate the Friends' concern to the organizers of the Michigan's National History Day in order to avoid a similar occurrence in 2008.

Treasurer Report

Balance:	04-01-07	\$10,659.36
Deposit:	04-01-07	+ 2,103.10
Total		= \$12,762.46

Uncashed Checks
None

Allocated Funds

Michigan History Day:	\$ 450.00	
Museum Exhibit:	+ 4,000.00	
Document Conservation:	+ 1,000.00	
Jackson Civil War Muster:	+ 725.00	[Added due to below 5-14-07 motion]
Total	\$ 6,175.00	- \$6,175.00

Restricted Funds

Walker Tavern	\$ 616.10	
Fayette +	0.00	
Total	\$ 616.10	- \$ 616.10

Available Funds 04-01-07 = \$5,971.36

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report with the March 12, 2007 Board-approved allocated funds of \$725.00 for the Jackson Civil War Muster added into the Allocated funds; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No bills were presented for payment.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak reported that an organizational meeting of the Friends of Walker Tavern (Walker Tavern), an Affiliate of the Friends, was held May 10, 2007 at Walker Tavern Historic Site. During the meeting, the following Walker Tavern board officers were elected: Cletus Brooks, president, Claudia Miller, vice president, Debbie Howay, treasurer, and Cheryl Valentine, secretary. In addition, Dilla Miller was elected to the position as Delegate to the Friends of Michigan History Board in Lansing. A motion was passed to operate under the bylaws of the Friends of Michigan History pending the execution of a working agreement between the two groups.

President Spaniola reported on the status of the special committee to develop an affiliate

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agreement with Walker Tavern. At the meeting, it was felt by the committee that insufficient time was available between then and the May 14th Friends meeting to it to develop such an agreement. Chris Dancisak reported that Walker Tavern could use in the short term, the development of an agreement to operate consignment sales at Walker Tavern and to process the collected fund through the Friends. The committee developed a draft agreement to achieve this purpose and sent it out to the Friends' Board for review prior to today's meeting.

A motion was made and seconded not to enter into the proposed draft agreement at this time; motion passed.

Pat Clark, Foundation Director, provided a historical overview of the Foundation-sponsored Odyssey events. Odyssey is a special endeavor of the Foundation that raises funds for and supports award-winning education programs of the Michigan Historical Museum. She invited Board members to participate in the Foundation's Odyssey gala event that will take place on Saturday, November 17, 2007. Board members expressed their interest in participating.

Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation Committee* – No report.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee* – Paul Tarr reported that the committee had contacted the proposed speaker for the program. He reminded that the Board that the date of Sunday, November 4, 2007 was selected for the 2007 Veterans Day Program.

C. *Board Nominating Committee* – Keith Pohl reported that despite his letters and reminder letters, he still only had one individual who has committed to becoming a new Board Director (Mr. Larry Griffin). Mr. Griffin is planning on joining the Friends and the Board later this fall. Keith indicated that he will continue to work on other possible members. He again asked the Board to offer recommendations for possible candidates that would achieve the goal of increasing the diversity of the Board.

D. *Membership Committee* – Adriana Greci Green reported on her being able to develop an agreement with Wayne State University Press to provide a 20 percent discount on all Wayne State University Press books to individuals who join the Friends. New Friends' members would be provided a code they can use to obtain the discount. She passed out an example flier with a listing of several Civil War books for one distinct interest group, the Civil War reenactors. She indicated that she could do the same for other interests groups; for example political history, etc.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee* – No report.

F. *Grants Committee* – No report.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola briefly brought the Board up-to-date on his efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Additional information will be available on this at a later meeting.

B. Sharing of Membership List. A brief discussion took place regarding the Board's lack of a decision to respond to the Michigan Political History Society regarding its request to exchange its membership list with the Friends for the purpose of recruiting new members.

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A motion was made and seconded to suggest that the Michigan Political History Society and the Friends each develop an introduction letter and then provide the other organization with sufficient copies of the letter and membership brochures that can be sent out by the other organization; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to formalize the above procedure into a Friends' Standard Operating Procedure that may be repeated with other organizations wishing to exchange membership lists with the Friends; motion passed.

C. Envelopes. Keith Harrison presented two quotes from state vendors for purchase of 1,000 pre-printed envelopes. Concern was expressed that that both quotes seemed high in light of the fact that envelopes could be purchase very cheaply. Mr. Harrison and Bill Wellman indicated that they would explore further the issue. In the interim, the Board decided to authorize a not to exceed amount for their purchase.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$100.00 for the purchase of 1000 Friends return address pre-printed envelopes; motion passed.

New Business

Discussion on the development of the Friends-Walker Tavern Affiliate Agreement will need to wait until Board representatives meets with the new Walker Tavern Board.

Announcement

Paul Tarr indicated that he would be in the Riverwalk Theater Musical "1776" that was scheduled to open on May 31, 2007.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, June 11, 2007, 2007, in Lansing.